

Robbers Sell Protection as A Side Graft

Failure of Merchants to Buy Tickets for 'Show' or 'Athletic Event' Always Followed by Quick Burglary

Gangs Work Undisturbed

Thefts Disclosed in Day Make \$60,000; One Firm Refusing Tribute, a Victim

The disclosure of a dozen more robberies yesterday, amounting to \$60,000, offered fresh evidence that burglary has been reduced from a game of chance to a systematic business.

It was apparent that the men engaged in it are equipped to move things in bulk, and at their leisure, from the most central locations. In connection with the recent robberies of shops and stores near Thirty-fourth Street and Broadway the proprietors told a story indicating that some burglars have been selling tickets for shows as a side line.

For some time young men have been visiting shops in this district and asking the proprietors to buy tickets for entertainments given by their "athletic club" in the Bronx. The visitors usually dropped a hint that if the firm bought tickets they would see that the shop was "protected."

Burglar Protection Ignored

Two weeks ago Boris Liss, of Sherman Brothers, at 14 West Thirty-fourth Street, told one such caller that the firm was cutting down expenses and would rather not buy any more tickets. The caller departed sullenly.

On last Thursday night burglars "broke in" to the Sherman Brothers' loft and carried away from a truck waiting in front of the building. They took about seventy-five pieces, valued at \$5,000. The burglars then attached an electric drill to the wiring in the loft and drilled a hole through the floor.

A hole of goods as a rope they lowered themselves to the floor below and collected more dresses and cloaks, valued at \$15,000, from the loft of Max Maltz. They took along all of his samples for the spring trade.

After that the burglars drove their truck to 40 West Thirty-fourth Street, forced an office door, cut their way into the rooming house, stole a waist Company and carried out clothing valued at \$10,000. They then called it a night, probably because the truck was full. As proof that all these jobs had been done by one group they left behind some tools, tools to judge by the markings had been used in each place.

Skilled Thieves Wear Gloves

From the clothing people it was learned that the absence of finger prints had convinced the detectives that the burglars wore gloves. The detectives of the West Thirty-first Street station, who were on the case, refused to talk.

Mr. Maltz, one of the clothing men robbed, said it looked as if there must be an organized business under if any of these jobs were done by one group. "Fences," at any rate, clothing manufacturers have been popular victims. Furs worth \$6,500 were stolen last week from William Jackson & Sons, at 35 West Thirty-seventh Street, by men who drove off in their delivery wagon while the driver was making a delivery. They abandoned the wagon.

Burglars broke into the front door of Herman J. Goldman's shop, 137 Pliska Avenue, Brooklyn, and while the burglar alarm rang steadily and a neighbor looked on, two frightened to say anything, they carried out furs valued at \$5,000, and drove off in an automobile.

While the looting of lofts has occupied one group of burglars, others, including a woman, have indulged in hold-ups. Two men shoved pistols into the face of Spredon Damentis yesterday at 4:30 a. m. while he was drinking coffee alone in his restaurant at 40 West Forty-second Street. They backed him into the kitchen and there shot Fred Kepos, a cook, in the leg because he called for help. They took \$25 from the cash register and, with their lookout, who was a woman, escaped in an automobile.

Negroes Join Crime Carnival

Seven young negroes, wearing black masks, lined ten customers and even clerks against the walls of the poultry shop of Koffas & Mofsoviz, at 19 East 127th Street, on Saturday night, and proceeded to do a thorough job. First they beat Rabbi Buchalter, who kills chickens, because he did not know the combination to the safe. Harry Mofsoviz, a clerk, told them the safe was open, and he was beaten for not saying so before. The negroes got \$500 from the safe, \$400 from a shoe of one of their victims and a few watches and \$200 from the clerks and customers.

Shoo-Fly Ruse Seen in Police Motor Patrol

Bluecoats Refuse to Volunteer as Drivers for Side Cars to Carry Lieutenants, Fearing Spy Traps

\$1,379,000 Cost to City

Detail Requires 240 Men and Same Number Superiors From Short Force

Way Opened For Sweeping City Inquiry

(Continued from page one)

in the best interests of the city, providing it can be done with thoroughness and in a spirit of entire fairness and nonpartisanship.

"Our committee has other and far more important work to do than anything it has yet accomplished, and far more important than the work of investigating the city departments. It is important that we may be. I do not question that there has been an orgy of inefficiency and extravagance, if not actual dishonesty, in the city departments. Our committee has, however, still barely scratched the surface.

"All that we are doing is merely to erect a foundation on which to build our constructive legislation. It will be drastic and far-reaching. I think some may say almost revolutionary, if not a little revolutionary. It is a narrow economic policy that has prevailed in the Federal and state governments.

Sees Federal Inactivity

"In order to succeed this legislation must have the support of the Legislature and the public, regardless of party lines. If your committee were to become involved in a city investigation that would be possible, and I regard it as more important that the integrity of our purpose should be maintained than a dozen city investigations, however useful they may be.

"I am sorry to say that we are continuing to meet with anything but cooperation from the Department of Justice and the Federal authorities. Estimations of cooperation, we get nothing.

"Let me illustrate this. About seven weeks ago, as I have since naively realized, I relying upon the letters I received from the Department of Justice, which are very pleasant and encouraging in their tone, asked that they let us have access to the files and evidence that they have collected in connection with the civil suit they brought in New Jersey against cement manufacturers. In answer to that request, which I made because of our desire of cooperation from the department, I received a reply that they could not let us have this evidence, because they needed it in their civil suit, which has been asleep for about a year or more.

Cooperation Not Forthcoming

"Great hopes were raised in us some time ago by the appearance of Senator Calder here, before your committee. We thought that with his aid we might be able to get jurisdiction before his committee, sitting with the over witnesses who find Philadelphia, Newark and other places much more congenial at this time of the year; but we have thus far been disappointed in that hope. That is due to the many other commitments of Senator Calder in connection with his own committee. At any rate, the cooperation we have thus far received has not been forthcoming.

"I think that is a fair statement of the plans and purposes of the committee, so that it may be known that we cannot undertake before this committee to exploit all the combinations existing in the building trades in the city of New York. I should say that there were sixty or more such combinations, according to our advisers."

Butler in Broker's Home Killed When Caught in Elevator Shaft

Lawrence Donnelly, twenty-two years old, employed as a butler in the home of Clarence Bowen, 5 East Sixty-third Street, was crushed to death last night when he was caught between the roof of the elevator and the third floor in the shaft at the Bowen home.

His body was extricated by Captain Robert E. McGannon and seven firemen from Truck 16 after an hour's work. It is not known just how Donnelly met with the accident. Mr. Bowen is at present living at the Hotel Plaza while his home is undergoing alterations. He is a retired broker.

Clara Hamon In Mexico, Says El Paso Sheriff

(Continued from page one)

investigated and that Ross be held as a material witness if necessary.

The newspaper man was quizzed closely as to his alleged statements that he had met the woman after her motor car had broken down near San Antonio, that he had repaired the break and that she had given him a statement. Ross claimed he had known Mrs. Smith Hamon for years.

ARDMORE, Okla., Dec. 7.—Russell R. Brown, County Attorney for Carter County, tonight said that Sheriff Buck Garrett had given him a telegram ostensibly from Sheriff Orndorff at El Paso today, to the effect that Clara Smith Hamon was believed to be in a Mexican border town.

Mr. Brown said he and Sheriff Garrett will discuss to-night or to-morrow the suggestion of Sheriff Orndorff that the Sheriff here send a man or men to El Paso.

The County Attorney said he was "very sorry" that Sheriff Orndorff's message had been given "premature publication," which might seriously injure or render impossible the chances of having Mrs. Smith Hamon returned to Ardmore should the woman under surveillance in the unincorporated town prove to be the alleged lover of Mr. Hamon.

Mr. Brown refused to comment on steps that possibly would be taken in the event Mrs. Smith Hamon has been located. He said that the present regime in Mexico has not been formally recognized by the United States.

Jersey City Police Ordered to Detain Suspicious Persons

Action Taken to Reduce Robberies and Hold-Ups; Negroes Beat Victim, but Flee Without Money

Because of the frequency of hold-ups in Jersey City, the police of that city have been instructed to show vigilance in the questioning of strangers found on the streets at night.

Chief Richard T. Battersby yesterday issued an order to precinct commanders to issue orders to other towns and cities to detain all suspicious characters found on the streets. This applies to whites as well as negroes.

One of the bad negro element are being driven out of other towns and part of them are coming here. We have had a number of hold-ups by negroes and something drastic will have to be done.

Henry B. Stone, forty years old, of 316 West Side Avenue, Jersey City, was held up early yesterday by two negroes armed with revolvers. He offered resistance and was beaten over the head with a revolver. The negroes fled without getting his money.

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 7.—The activity of footpads in this city and vicinity, and the rapidly increasing number of weekly hold-ups, have caused more than four hundred persons to apply during the last two weeks for permits to carry firearms, according to a statement made to-day by Chief of Police Garrett J. Farrell.

Negroes have participated in many of the hold-ups, it was said. News of robberies conveyed last night to the Board of Police Commissioners led the board to consider the advisability of appointing forty more patrolmen to the force. James Whalen Jr. was sent to St. Francis Hospital to-night in a serious condition after being clubbed by a negro highwayman.

Four Burglars Steal Letters to Mrs. Hamon

Force Entrance to Apartment, Take Personal Papers; She Disbelieves Report of Raid

CHICAGO, Dec. 7.—Four unidentified men forced an entrance last night into an apartment building here where the widow of Jake L. Hamon lives. The men seized a quantity of personal papers and seventy-five letters received for Mrs. Hamon during her absence at Ardmore, Okla., where her husband was mysteriously shot to death. The intruders took nothing else.

Charles Willis, landlord of the building, had the letters and papers in his apartment, which is across the hall. Actions of the men indicated the seizure had been carefully planned, police said.

FORT WORTH, Tex., Dec. 7.—"I don't believe my apartment in Chicago was robbed," said Mrs. Jake L. Hamon, widow of the oil magnate, railroad owner and politician, while here to-day on her way to the West Texas oil fields and railroad properties of the Hamon estate.

"That story is another invention, probably of some newspaper reporter, just like the story about Clara Smith's diary. I don't believe my letters were stolen."

"No such person as Clara Smith exists or ever has existed," declared Mrs. Hamon in defending the reputation of her husband. She accused the newspaper of spreading "the false story of the Smith girl" just to interest readers.

Mrs. Hamon, referring to the non-existence of Clara Smith, meant, she said, that in so far as the moral actions of her husband and the connection with the girl and the shooting were concerned, no such person existed. The girl had nothing to do with Mr. Hamon's death and had not cast a shadow over Mrs. Hamon's life, she said.

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A dispatch from Ossining last night said that arrangements were being made at Sing Sing for the execution in the electric chair Thursday of five prisoners. The fifth condemned man is Howard Baker, twenty years old, who, with an accomplice, slew William De-groff near Rochester. The other four condemned prisoners are Cassidy, Joseph M. Miller, Charles M. Loughlin and Joseph Usoroff, all of the Bronx, and all sentenced to pay the death penalty for the Bronx murder.

Baker's wife and three children, all under five years of age, visited him in the death house yesterday.

Guard Women After Threat

Nassau County Deputy Sheriffs, posted at the main entrance of the home of Mrs. Louise Duncan, at Hempstead, L. I., for the last three nights have waited in vain for the arrival of black-maulers, who are alleged to have written a note to Mrs. Duncan, commanding her under pain of death to deposit \$5,000 on the postpaid fronting her home.

The letter was turned over to District Attorney Charles R. Weeks. It was signed by "The Gang," and while its contents have not been divulged, it said there was a death threat in it.

Mrs. Duncan is the widow of H. Butt-jon Duncan. Her first husband was James L. Kernechan, a New York banker.

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Plays William Tell, But Shoots Too Low

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.—Andrew Merle attempted to shoot the hat from the head of Amando Georgi yesterday on a wager that he could do so without hurting the man, but aimed too low, the police said he told them.

The statement was regarded as clearing up circumstances surrounding the finding of Georgi's body seated at a cafe table.

whereupon the four attacked him. Hoffman was walking along Gramatan Avenue, on the outskirts of the place, when an automobile, bearing the four highwaymen, drove up behind him and stopped. The four bandits jumped out and Hoffman, turning, looked into the muzzles of four revolvers. With the odds at four to one, he made no resistance.

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Calder and Wadsworth To Dispense N. Y. Plums

Harding Is Said to Have No Friends in the State to Claim Important Posts

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The Empire State's federal patronage plums will be divided by Harding after March 4 on the advice of Senators Calder and Wadsworth. This statement was made very definitely to-day by close friends of Mr. Harding, who added that the next President had no personal friends in New York to whom he would insist on giving any of the big places, such as collectors of the ports, collectors of internal revenue, district attorneys or United States marshals.

The National Committeeman, Charles D. Hilles, who is being mentioned for a place in the Cabinet, although no definite portfolio is being assigned him by the gossip, is not, of course, included in this talk of the division of patronage.

There had been some talk of Charles E. Hughes for the Supreme Court, but it was said by friends of Mr. Hughes that he did not care to return to the Supreme Bench, even as Chief Justice, but would be much happier to continue the private practice of law. Mr. Hughes, it is suggested, is not a rich man, and he is making in private practice eight or ten times the salary of a Supreme Court justice.

These are names of New York men who want ambassadorships, who are regarded as aspirants or are being talked about for ambassadorships, their names having been called to the attention of Senator Harding: Frank A. Munsey, Jules Rache, William Miller Collier, Charles Sherrill, Colonel William Hayward.

U. S. Bureau Reform Sought


WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Appointment of a joint Congressional committee to investigate government bureaus and agencies and recommend a plan for their reorganization is proposed in a resolution introduced to-day by Senator Jones, Republican of Washington.

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The Boston Transcript calls it:
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The Dressing Gowns comprised in the assortment are made of French silks of the choicest qualities, imported direct by B. Altman & Co. They are lined throughout with lustrous satin and have silk or satin-faced collar and cuffs and a wide silk girdle.

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A Fashion in which the Wearer Will take Pleasure—
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